
245.15

Referrals for Title V Maternal Health and Child Health Services

Overview

Introduction Women and children participating in the Iowa WIC Program may not have a regular provider for medical and dental care. Referrals for Maternal Health and Child Health (MCH) services are strongly encouraged to help WIC families access a variety of health services.

MCH mission The mission of MCH services is to provide or assure access to quality health services. As public health professionals, WIC and MCH staff recognize the critical importance and interdependence between nutrition education, food supply, access to preventive health services and optimal health of women and children.

Congress passed the MCH Block Grant, also known as Title V of the Social Security Act, in 1935. Historically, WIC and MCH programs have worked together to improve the health status of pregnant and post-partum women, infants, toddlers, and children. Fundamental to MCH programs are services that are family-centered, community-based, collaborative, comprehensive, flexible, coordinated, culturally competent and developmentally appropriate.

Reference: MCH Administrative Manual

In this policy This policy contains the following topics.

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Making Referrals for MCH Services

Determining if a MCH referral is warranted	<p>If a participant expresses any health related concerns such as not having a medical or dental home, social or health concerns, or difficulty paying for health services while responding to the WIC nutrition interview questions, WIC staff should convey the availability of health services provided by the local MCH agency.</p>
Eligibility	<p>All women of childbearing age and children who are residents of Iowa are eligible for MCH services regardless of immigration status. Services are available at no cost to families who meet WIC income guidelines and up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Services are provided on a sliding fee scale for families between 200% and 300% of the FPL. For families at or above 300% of the FPL, services are provided at full fee.</p> <p><u>Reference:</u> Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 76</p>
MCH contractors	<p>MCH services are available in every county. Contact the Healthy Families Line at 1-800-369-2229 to obtain a list of MCH contractors. To make successful referrals, contact the MCH agency to determine the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is the MCH contact? • When can they be reached? • What specific services do they offer? • What information do they need when you make a referral?
Role of the MCH agency	<p>It is the role of the MCH agency to assure that the full package of screening services is provided for all clients enrolled. Agencies may achieve this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisting clients with establishing a medical or dental home that provides the full clinical component of services; • Providing partial or gap-filling services that support those clinical services provided by a physician or a dentist; or • Providing the full clinical component of services.

Continued on next page

Making Referrals for MCH Services, Continued

Deciding to make a MH or CH referral

MCH agencies can coordinate access to many health services for WIC families. However, if the WIC agency already has a direct link to a particular service it is not necessary to go through the MCH agency.

Example #1: If immunizations are provided by the local public health agency on-site at a WIC clinic and a family has a medical and dental home and is not in need of other services, it would *not* be necessary to make a referral to the CH agency. The family could take advantage of this coordinated service provided by the local public health agency.

Example #2: If a child is identified to be in need of a lead test and does not have a regular medical provider, a referral to the CH agency *would* be appropriate to assure the blood lead test is completed and access to other health services is provided.

Example #3: A child may have visited a physician or dentist in the past, but the family may not have a consistent relationship established with that provider. A referral to the CH agency *would* be appropriate to help establish a medical or dental home with the provider so the child may receive regularly scheduled well child screenings or dental exams. If the family needs transportation, translation, or childcare services in order to access these appointments, the CH agency will assist with the care coordination activities.

MCH services

Title V MCH services offer an array of services including:

Service	Definition
Direct health care*	Services accessed through cooperative agreements with local private health care providers. Clinic services provided through MCH centers are available in areas where there is a documented shortage of primary health care providers.
Enabling*	Services that assist families to access health and social services.
Population-based	Services that provide preventive interventions and personal health services for groups of people (rather than in one to one situations).
Infrastructure building	Services to improve and maintain health status by providing support for the development and maintenance of comprehensive health services systems.

* MCH services that are most likely provided as a result of a referral from WIC. Specific MCH services are listed on the following pages.

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Making Referrals for MCH Services, Continued

Linking WIC families to MCH services

If the participant/caretaker answers questions on **the nutrition interview** that show a need for MCH services follow these steps.

Step	Action								
1	Explain how MCH services could be helpful in the areas for which there is a concern								
2	<p>Ask the participant/caretaker if interested in receiving MCH services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If <u>no</u>, give the participant/caretaker the name, address and phone number of the MCH agency for future reference. • If <u>yes</u>, proceed to Step 3. 								
3	<p>Use the table below to determine your next step.</p> <table> <tr> <th>If...</th><th>Then...</th></tr> <tr> <td>MCH services are available within the same agency as WIC and may or may not be available at the WIC clinic</td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer the WIC participant to the MCH staff person • Complete the agency's enrollment form. </td></tr> <tr> <td>MCH services are not available within the same agency as WIC but are available at the WIC clinic</td><td>Refer the WIC participant to the appropriate MH or CH staff person within the WIC clinic.</td></tr> <tr> <td>MCH services are not available within the same agency as WIC and are not available at the WIC clinic</td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Referral/Request for Information form • Have the participant/caretaker sign the form. • Forward the referral to the MCH agency. </td></tr> </table>	If...	Then...	MCH services are available within the same agency as WIC and may or may not be available at the WIC clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer the WIC participant to the MCH staff person • Complete the agency's enrollment form. 	MCH services are not available within the same agency as WIC but are available at the WIC clinic	Refer the WIC participant to the appropriate MH or CH staff person within the WIC clinic.	MCH services are not available within the same agency as WIC and are not available at the WIC clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the Referral/Request for Information form • Have the participant/caretaker sign the form. • Forward the referral to the MCH agency.
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Document referrals in the data system

Assurances must be in place that referrals are documented in the participant's record. Document any referrals made for MCH services in the WIC data system. This system will also generate messages to follow up on referrals.

Maternal Health Services and Oral Health Services

Title V Maternal Health services

Title V Maternal Health (MH) contractors offer an array of services including:

- Assistance in obtaining health care coverage;
 - Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid;
 - Care coordination and case management;
 - Assistance in accessing medical prenatal care;
 - Assistance in accessing dental care;
 - Assistance in accessing mental health professionals;
 - Education on prenatal and infant care;
 - Oral health education;
 - Risk assessment, including domestic violence, tobacco/alcohol/illicit drug use and depression screenings;
 - Assistance in making delivery arrangements;
 - Nutrition assessment and education;
 - Psychosocial assessment;
 - Referrals;
 - Postpartum home visits;
 - Oral screenings and fluoride varnish applications;
 - Interpretation for services provided; and
 - Transportation to medical/dental/mental health services.
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Oral health services

Many pregnant and postpartum clients may have a medical home, but lack a dental home. Women who present with dental disease, oral pain and/or answer that they do not receive regular dental check-ups should be referred to the MH agency for oral health services. Services include:

- Oral screening;
- Education; and
- Assistance with dental appointments (finding a dentist, scheduling appointments, child care, transportation, interpretation, follow-up, etc.).

In addition, dental hygienist services may be available through MH agencies. Those services include oral screenings, fluoride varnish applications, and other preventive services for pregnant and postpartum clients.

Refer to WIC Policy 240.90 for additional information.

Reference: Section 700 MCH Administrative Manual

Child Health Services and Oral Health Services

Title V Child Health services

Title V Child Health (CH) contractors offer an array of services including:

- Presumptive eligibility for children;
 - Medicaid EPSDT informing and care coordination services;
 - Access to routine well-child screening;
 - Assistance in finding a regular source of medical and dental care (a medical and dental home);
 - Assistance in application process for Medicaid and *hawk-i*;
 - Care coordination services including arranging interpretation or transportation services, identification of payment sources, scheduling appointments, and follow-up on services provided;
 - Immunizations;
 - Lead testing;
 - Vision and hearing screenings;
 - Developmental testing;
 - Consultation to child care on health and safety issues;
 - Health education including oral health education, SIDS awareness and injury prevention;
 - Home visits;
 - Nutrition assessment and education;
 - Oral screenings, fluoride varnish applications, education;
 - Referrals for additional family support services (parent education, Head Start, child care, Child Health Specialty Clinics, Early ACCESS, etc.);
 - Interpretation for services provided; and
 - Transportation to medical/dental/mental health services.
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Oral health services

Many children may have a medical home, but lack a dental home. Children who present with dental disease, oral pain and/or whose families answer that they do not receive regular dental check-ups should be referred to the CH agency for oral health services. Services include:

- Oral screening;
- Education;
- Assistance with dental appointments (finding a dentist, scheduling appointments, child care, transportation, translation, follow-up, etc);
- **Payment for dental visits for eligible children age 0-21 years** (available at most CH agencies).

In addition, dental hygienist services may be available through CH agencies. Those services include oral screenings, fluoride varnish applications and other preventive services for children age 0-21 years.

Refer to WIC Policy 240.90 for additional information.

Reference: Section 700 MCH Administrative Manual
